

XXIII. *Description of a new genus of Hymenopterous insects.* By J. O. WESTWOOD, M.A., F.L.S., &c.

[Read August 3rd, 1881.]

PLATE XVI.

DYSCOLESTHES, n. g.

Genus novum ad Hymenoptera aculeata referendum, familiæ autem mihi dubium, characteribus e mare unico depromptis.

Corpus breve, subovale, valde setosum nigrum, setis cinereis omnino vestitum. Caput thorace multo minus et angustius, oculis satis magnis lateralibus; ocellisque tribus verticalibus: os haud prominens, mandibulis duobus acutis falcatis, intus prope apicem dente parvo acuto armatis. Maxillæ latæ stipite plano subovali extus setoso, intus ad apicem lobo tenui membranaceo instructæ, palpis duobus minutis 2-articulatis apice setigeris. Mentum subovale palpis labialibus mento longioribus, 3-articulatis apice setigeris. Antennæ longæ graciles cylindricæ, haud geniculatæ; articulis 13, articulo 1mo minuto, 2do brevissimo, 3tio et reliquis elongatis, singulo paullo curvato. Thorax brevis ovatus compactus, abdominis magnitudine fere æqualis. Abdomen ovale, segmento 1mo cum sequenti continuo, nec pedunculato nec ad apicem constricto; genitalibus masculinis retractis et nullo modo exsertis, apice abdominis spinulis tribus minutis armato. Alæ magnitudine mediocres, fere longitudine thoracis et abdominis æquales, hyalinæ, translucidæ; venis (nisi ad basin alarum) destitutæ; anticæ vena tenui subcostali e basi extendenti ad stigma magnum nigrum ante medium marginis antici positum, area angusta basali ad stigma extensa alteraque incompleta minuta ad basin alæ. Alæ posticæ area minuta ovali subbasali venaque gracillimo obliqua ad marginem posticum currente. Venæ discoidales et apicales in omnibus alis obsoletæ. Pedes graciles longitudine mediocres, valde setosi; tibiæ pedum 2 anticorum breves, calcari unico curvato, plano, apice obtuso. Tarsi antici mediocres, articulo 1mo subtus

inciso pro receptione calcaris. Pedes 4 postici longiores et graciliores, tibiæ calcari unico fere longitudine articuli 1mi tarsorum, apice unguibus duobus; singulo intus prope basin spinula tenui armato.

Dyscolestes canus, n. s.

Statura et habitus *Andrenæ* minutæ. Totus niger, nitidus, punctatus; griseo valde setosus; antennis testaceis; segmentis abdominalibus postice piceo-marginatis. Long. corp. 4 lin. Expans. alar. $6\frac{1}{2}$ lin.

Hab. Chili (*Reed*). In Mus. Hopeiano Oxoniæ.

It is unfortunate that our knowledge of this curious insect is confined to a single individual of the male sex. That it belongs to the Aculeate division of the order *Hymenoptera* may be affirmed from the structure of the 13-jointed antennæ; in the very minute size, however, of the basal joint the insect disagrees with the great proportion of the aculeate species, there being no trace of geniculation; whilst the length of the antennæ, as well as the number of joints, clearly show that the insect is a male. It is in the ant genus *Myrmecia*, from New Holland, that we find somewhat similar male antennæ, but the whole form of this insect and the dense coating of greyish white setæ are not found in any other species of *Formicidæ*, from all of which this insect differs in the absence of one or more constricted segments at the base of the abdomen. The construction of the lower parts of the mouth seems again to point to the most aberrant of the *Formicidæ*, several of which were described by myself in the 'Annals of Natural History' for 1840, vol. vi. In the genera *Typhlopone*, *Anomma*, and *Solenopsis*, we find extremely minute maxillary palpi composed of only two apparent joints. The legs are well developed, but the curious spur of the anterior tibiæ differs from that of any hymenopterous insect with which I am acquainted; the fine tooth with which each of the tarsal unguis is furnished merits attention, whilst the very curious structure of the wings, the greater portion of which are quite hyaline, colourless, and apparently veinless, but with a large black stigma, is quite unique. We find indeed in *Meria* and some of the *Proctotrupidæ* the veins are restricted to the base of the wings, and in some of the latter there is a large black stigma; but the whole character of this insect

removes it from the families to which those genera belong. Its nearest allies are most probably to be found in the *Scoliidae*, to which family the trispinose apex of the male abdomen lends a strong approximation. The female, when discovered, will doubtless differ so much from the male as to lead the discoverer at first to regard the insect of that sex as a distinct genus.

P.S.—In Gay's 'Historia de Chile,' tom. sexto, p. 305, a genus is described, in Spanish, by the Marquis Spinola, under the name of *Chestus*, which may possibly be identical with the one above described. A short generic as well as specific Latin diagnosis is given, which are either inaccurate or cannot apply to our insect. The generic description is, "Antennæ corpori sublongitudine, duodecim articulatae. Mandibulae breves. Thorax tripartitus, regionis propriae nervari oblitterati." *Chestus Gayi*, pl. 3, fig. 8. *C. antennis, capite, thorace, pedibusque nigris; abdomine pilis fulvis; alis hyalinis, nervuris testaceis aut fulvis. Long. 5 lin.; lat. 2 lin.* It is placed in the family *Mutillidae*, near the *Thynnides*, and it is suggested that it may be the male of the genus *Bradynobænus*, which has entirely the habit of a female *Mutilla*.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE XVI.

- FIG. 1. *Dyscolesthes canus*, magnified.
 2. Hind leg of ditto.
 3. Fore leg of ditto.
 4. Spur of anterior tibia.
 5. Antenna.
 6. Tarsal ungues.
 7. Maxillæ, labium and palpi.
 8. Head, seen from above.
 9. Base of hind wing.
 10. Base of fore wing.